

Government Accountability Office recently revealed that over 60-percent of large corporations do not pay any taxes. In fact, a recent study of 275 of the Fortune 500 companies revealed that those companies alone have avoided paying over \$175.2 billion in owed taxes.

The Republicans claim the tax cuts for corporations in H.R. 4520 will not add to the large deficit our country has ever faced. However, a study by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities reveals that once all their cost-hiding gimmicks are stripped away, this bill will put us at least \$80 billion more in debt than we are today. The increase in debt will mean more cuts to vital programs, such as children's health care and homeland security. This new round of tax cuts is a continuation of the failed Bush economic policies that turned a federal surplus into deficit. We do not need more of the same, we need a new direction.

We have lost a net total of over one million jobs since President Bush took office. With the passage of H.R. 4520, we are at risk of losing even more American jobs. H.R. 4520 adds even more incentives for corporations to ship jobs overseas. But, not only are Republicans intent on aggravating our already dismal jobs picture, they are also acting to severely undermine the quality of jobs that do stay in our country.

The few new jobs that have been created in the past few months pay an average of \$9,000 less than the jobs they are replacing and many lack affordable health benefits. Yet, the Republican conferees rejected a Senate provision in H.R. 4520 that would have restored six million workers' right to overtime that the Administration took away earlier this year. The Republicans have total disregard for the fact that costs for basic necessities, like health care and energy, have skyrocketed and that families must make do with much less income.

What H.R. 4520 did include was a \$10 billion bail out for the Big Tobacco—that is equal to the tobacco industry's advertising budgets for one year. In another win for the tobacco industry, the Republicans refused to include the Senate to allow the Federal Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products. According to recent statistics, more than 400,000 people die each year from tobacco-related diseases and, if action is not taken, more than five million children living today will ultimately die as a result. We cannot afford this loss of life or the \$89 billion in annual public and private health care costs attributable to tobacco. The passage of H.R. 4520 shows that not only do the Republicans have complete disregard for our fiscal health, but our children's physical health as well.

H.R. 4520 is a shameful bill that will make millions of Americans pay through cuts to vital programs, like health care for children and heating assistance for seniors, cuts to U.S. jobs, and cuts to workers' protections in order to subsidize big business and special interests.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention, and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, in November 2002, Congress authorized the creation of a bipartisan 9–11 Commission to prepare a report on the status of our intelligence prior to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the effectiveness of our response to those attacks, and to make recommendations to strengthen identified weaknesses. I applaud the work of the commission and support their recommendations to strengthen our country against attacks at home and abroad.

It is critical to our national security that Congress act quickly and thoughtfully to implement the 9–11 Commission's recommendations. I was hopeful, therefore, that the Republican leadership would put the interest of the country ahead of political considerations and bring to the floor a bipartisan bill that would protect our country from terrorist attacks. Unfortunately, the bill before us, H.R. 10, as currently written, fails to meet this standard, and I must reluctantly oppose it.

H.R. 10 is full of extraneous provisions that have nothing to do with the 9–11 Commission recommendations. The Republican leadership has added highly divisive immigration-related provisions which have been criticized by the chairman and vice chairman of the 9–11 Commission, the families of the 9–11 victims, and even the White House. For example, the bill seeks to deport people without due process, punish those seeking asylum, return victims of torture to cruel governments, and prevent hardworking individuals from obtaining basic forms of identification.

The serious problems with H.R. 10 could have easily been avoided had the Republican leadership written this bill in a bipartisan manner. Instead, they removed provisions that were passed in committee on a bipartisan basis. At a time that our country is at war and we are threatened on a daily basis by potential terrorist attacks, it is unconscionable that the Republican leadership has turned the bipartisan recommendations of the 9–11 Commission into a politically divisive piece of legislation.

The Senate has proceeded in a bipartisan manner and passed, by an overwhelming vote of 96 to 2, an intelligence reform bill that follows the framework recommended by the bipartisan 9–11 Commission. It is my sincere hope that the serious problems with H.R. 10 will be resolved when the final product emerges. Americans are trusting that Congress will push partisan politics aside and unite in support of legislation that will truly make this country safer.

FREEDOM FOR FIDEL SUÁREZ CRUZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Fidel Suárez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Suárez Cruz is a farmer and pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. He is a member of the Party for Human Rights in Cuba. Mr. Suárez Cruz also heads the private library "San Pablo." Because of his admirable beliefs in freedom, democracy, and human rights, Mr. Suárez Cruz has been the target of the nightmare called the Castro regime.

According to Amnesty International, in 2000 Mr. Suárez Cruz was sentenced to 6 months of restricted freedom for "disobedience" for fishing in a restricted area; however, this sentence was changed to imprisonment in the totalitarian gulag because he was arrested for carrying out peaceful political activities.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Suárez Cruz was arrested because of his belief in freedom and human rights. In a sham trial, he was "sentenced" to 20 years in the inhuman, totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Suárez Cruz is currently languishing in an infernal cell in the totalitarian gulag. These depraved conditions are truly appalling. The State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes. It is a crime of the highest order that people who work for freedom are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Suárez Cruz is suffering in a grotesque gulag because he believes in freedom. My Colleagues, we cannot allow peaceful pro-democracy activists to languish in the depraved prisons of tyrants. We must demand immediate freedom for Fidel Suárez Cruz and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Chairman, this is a historic moment for our Nation as we take a giant step forward in national security by reforming our intelligence community to make our citizens and our communities safer. These reforms include the establishment of a National Intelligence Director and the implementation of new information sharing strategies to